Indo-China border trade

222. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposed Indo-China trade through Nathu La border has been put off;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the revised schedule of opening trade links?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The operationalisation of border trade through the Nathu La Pass requires necessary infrastructure to be put in place on both sides. Government are in constant touch with the Chinese side on this matter to commence the border trade through the Nathu La Pass at an early date.

GDP of the country

†223. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of America and Japan during the year 2003 was 10,857.2 billion dollar and 4,317.1 billion dollar respectively while GDP of India was only 591.5 billion dollar.

(b) if not, the fact in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that by utilizing its enormous manpower, India can raise the above level of GDP; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government and the p ospective targets fixed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USA and Japan during 2003, as given in the World Development

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Report (2005) stood at 10,881.6 billion dollar and 4,326.4 billion dollars respectively. India's GDP was reported to be 598.97 billion dollars during 2003.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has been taking cognizance of this potential. The Tenth Plan, therefore, set a higher GDP growth of 8 per cent per annum.

Measures for tackling earthquake and other natural disasters

224. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake preparedness measures for earthquake and other natural disaster on the lines of Tokyo and Los Angels;

(b) if so, the details thereof including cities/areas proposed to be covered under this scheme and the costs involved thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Science & Technology (DST) initiated a number of projects to undertake preparedness measures for earthquake and other natural disasters like cyclones by strengthening the observation network with latest state-of-the-art technology. Action has been initiated to link the seismological stations being maintained and operated by India Meteorological Department (IMD) through VSATs in order to reduce the time required for estimation of earthquake parameters and dissemination of information amongst the designated agencies. A good network of meteorological observatories is operated by IMD covering the enitre coastline and islands. A proposal to set up early warning system for tsunamis and storm surges has also recently been approved by Government at a total cost of Rs. 125 crores. Also, as Earthquake Risk Evaluation Center has been set up with a view to provide inputs for planning and preparedness for earthquake related disaster following the models evolved in context of Indian conditions. In order to microzone the selected urban centres and assess the seismic hazard an exercise was taken up for Jabalpur regions as a first step. Based on the experience gained, such exercises have also been initiated for a few selected urban centres, namely, Delhi, Guwahati and Bangalore.